

June 17, 1773
A
DISCOURSE

ON THE
ADVANTAGES of the INSULAR SITUATION
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN;

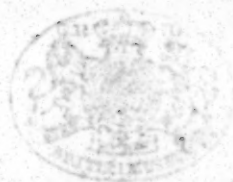
Delivered at SPITHEAD,
On Occasion of the PREPARATIONS for HIS MAJESTY'S
REVIEW of the FLEET.

By JOHN BONAR, A. B.
CHAPLAIN of His Majesty's Ship the CERBERUS.

- - - - - Tibi serviat ultima Thule,
Teque sibi generum Tethys emat omnibus undis. VIRG.

L O N D O N :
Printed for W. FLEXNEY, opposite Gray's-Inn Gate, HOLBORN;
and Sold by the Bookfellers at PORTSMOUTH.

M.DCC.LXXIII.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
The Earl of SANDWICH.

MY LORD,

A Young Man, unknown to your Lordship, save by some Favours he has received from you, in the Course of his Employment in the Navy, presumes to recommend the following Discourse to your Notice. He is not so vain as to imagine such a hasty Composition, as it was, can lay Claim to any Merit, of itself : but perhaps your Lordship may feel some Regard, for the Overflowings of a Heart, that beats with an Enthusiasm, for the Honour of its Country. The present Occasion turns every Eye, towards That unrivalled Department, of our National Power and Glory, over which we are pleased to see a Descendant of the Great MONTAGUE, whose Name will ever be dear in the Annals of our Navy, preside with universal Applause. I will not mention, My Lord, your great Reform of the
Marine

DEDICATION.

Marine Forces ; or those wise Regulations that you established, at your different Visitations of the *Dock-Yards*.---But in the late delicate Crisis, when the Affairs of EUROPE began to wear a threatening Aspect, the Better and Wiser Part of the Nation saw, with Wonder and Gratitude, the Storm at once dispell'd, by the Sagacious Councils of a Humane Prince ; and imputed it, under Heaven, to nothing so much, as the Zeal and Capacity of his Servant, who equip'd a Respectable Fleet, with a Rapidity beyond Example. I have the Honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

From on Board the Cerberus,
at Spithead, June 19, 1773.

JOHN BONAR.

 NAHUM, iii. 8.

POPULOUS NO, THAT WAS SITUATE AMONG THE
RIVERS, THAT HAD THE WATERS ROUND ABOUT IT,
WHOSE RAMPART WAS THE SEA, AND HER WALL WAS
FROM THE SEA.

WHEN I read these words to a Company of British
Sailors, I cannot expect that you would have
patience to hear the occasion upon which they were ori-
ginally written : they paint at once to every heart, the
happy situation of a Kingdom, greater far and more *po-
pulous* than the Prophet had in view, and make it glow
with conscious Pride and Satisfaction, as we cast our eyes
on that grand Fleet, with which we are now surrounded.
And whilst I touch upon this subject, that should be
so dear to us all, I call upon You, my beloved and re-
spected Hearers, and I would that I could call also upon
all my Countrymen this day, not to be ungrateful before
God for those blessings, which, under an auspicious Pro-
vidence, this nation has derived from having *the waters
round about it*, and a natural *Rampart of the Sea*. But
mistake me not as if I meant to give you a political Ha-

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range, rather than a religious Discourse. What I shall mention to you is all so evident, that it would be a shame for every one not to comprehend it ; and 'tis so intimately connected with your most affecting concerns as Subjects, and with the honour and duties of our Naval Profession, that none of you, especially no Officer, should be unacquainted with it. Nor would I wish with a narrow, malevolent heart, to make us look on *other* nations as less intitled to the divine favour than ourselves. They in their turn may possess, they all in fact do possess some peculiar blessings, for which they ought to count themselves happy : but let it be *our* business, my Countrymen, not to be insensible to those Advantages that we Islanders so eminently enjoy.

Let no man imagine the insular situation of this Kingdom, with any accessory advantages arising from it, to be mere matter of accident. 'Tis folly, 'tis impiety to think so. There is in it a visible destination of Heaven, which meant thus to circumscribe the boundaries, and to inclose on every side, with the most natural defence, *that* chosen spot of earth, that should one day become the seat of a mighty Empire. 'Tis true it did not become so at once. This country, at the early periods of civil society, was divided, first into smaller territories, afterwards into large ones, that were too often at variance with one another. It was necessary that *this* nation, like every other, should experience those vicissitudes, and should travel through that progress, by which Mankind
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are conducted to stability and happiness. At length we saw our true interest ; we were ashamed of our divisions ; and the inhabitants of GREAT-BRITAIN became an united and flourishing people. Nature often has thus marked the boundaries of states : nor is it a small blessing that our Country, with that other Kingdom, and the rest of the Islands belonging to us, are so eminently set apart from the people on the Continent. How much happier are we in this natural boundary, than if we were surrounded with huge chains of inhospitable mountains ; or, with large tracts of barren deserts, that seem, and often really are, like the walls of a Prison, to confine the People enclosed within them ; or, with those streams of water, and rivulets, that are so often dyed with the blood of Contest ; or, with those barriers of Art, walled Towns, and horrid lines of Circumvallation, that strike one entering upon some Countries, as the dismal Signatures of Despotism and Fear ? How much unlike the generous Approaches of our open shores, that seem inviting Mankind to the blessings of an equitable and manly constitution !

'Tis wonderful indeed to observe how, in the mysterious conduct of Providence with respect to the different Nations upon earth, some unhappy Countries, merely by their Situation, seem to have been marked out as Scenes of perpetual Revolutions and Carnage. I speak not of those extensive regions in the most luxuriant Climates, whose effeminate Inhabitants have so often fallen a prey to the incursions of Barbarians ; or, of those amazing
tracts

tracts of fertile Countries, in every other quarter of the Globe, that have remained so long immersed in savage Darknefs. This would open too wide a Field of melancholy, and let us see that it was a much more distinguished Blessing than we are apt to imagine, to enjoy, in common with the other Nations in this favoured corner of the Earth, the privileges of a civilized State. But in the very heart of Europe, how many fine Countries are there so unhappily situated, betwixt jealous and aspiring nations, that, they have become in a manner the Theatre of Contention, in all those great convulsions that have so often shaken this part of the World ! It would in some cases be no Hyperbole to say, that the land was scarce sufficient to hide the number of the slain, who have fallen from time to time, in fighting for little spots of Earth. And what are all the different Provinces of some large Kingdoms around us, but so many monuments of Plunder and Rapacity, ready to be reclaimed with fury upon every opportunity, and again to distress the wretched inhabitants, as they have often been before, till they care not who shall be their Masters ? But what stronger instance can be given of the Advantage in having the boundaries of our Kingdoms so distinctly traced out, than that evident accession of Power and grandeur that we have acquired, since we relinquished our great Possessions on the continent ? I do not talk of the accession of *real* grandeur and power, because it is certain that every State *now*, by the improvements of latter ages, is really more great and powerful

powerful than it *then* was: but I talk of our *relative* greatness, by which we bear a more illustrious sway among the surrounding Powers, since the wisdom of our Forefathers, the fate of War, or, to speak more properly and comprehensively, the good Providence of Heaven, taught us to confine our Cares, in this part of the World, to that sea-girt Kingdom, that was in progress of time to become the Envy and Admiration of Mankind.

When a nation is once set down at unity with itself, with all its frontiers properly described and secured, 'tis natural for it then to cast its eyes abroad; and after having carried to some perfection those intrinsic advantages, which it immediately receives from the hand of nature, to look out for foreign sources of Happiness and of Aggrandisement. And here, my Countrymen, how happy are we in this respect! *The World is all before us.* There is no occasion to ask a safe-conduct, thro' the confines of our enemies or jealous neighbours, to go wherever we please. The riches of the Earth flow in upon us, to crown, with suitable returns, a spirit of Industry and Adventure. From these fruitful sources, What Plenty! What Convenience! What Enjoyment! What Ingenuity! What Power! What Populousness! How many honest and reputable ways are opened, for those Hands being employed in labour, for those Faces beaming with gladness and complacency, for

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those

those Spirits being agitated with usef^l and noble designs, that were else, languishing in indolence, deformed by filth or disease, preying by stealth or by rapine upon the commonwealth? 'Tis not my design, nor is it in my power, to descant to ou upon this copious theme, in a commercial point of view. I talk only what every good man may be supposed to feel, who casts his eyes about him, not with a curiosity which may be laudable in other persons, but with a general concern for every object where the happiness of his neighbour is at stake, and with a heart that swells with honest pride in contemplating the glory and felicity of his Country. Are we not surrounded with numbers on every hand, whose very existence under Heaven must be derived, from the fruits of their industry or invention being carried to some foreign land, to which *that* Sea gives us free access. If you imagine this to be only an adventitious benefit, figure to yourselves, for a moment, this Island transplanted into the heart of a large continent. What would be the consequence? The consequence undoubtedly would be, that great multitudes of People, even a great majority of our inhabitants, would at one stroke be annihilated, and the hopes of those families for ever cut off, that are now rearing to serve their Sovereign, to supply the conveniences of their fellow subjects, or to spread the spirit of Humanity and friendly intercourse, by a mutual communication of benefits with the remotest habitations of mankind.

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Some men pretend to despise the happiness of a commercial and polished age, which they charge with many bad attendants, tho' it confessedly draws into one center the produce of all the various climates of Nature, and of all the numerous arts diffused among our species. Let us at least say, these are blessings to those who do not abuse them. And besides, ye complainers ! what is that state to which you would reduce us ? You yourselves do actually enjoy many comforts, many indulgencies of life, that are vastly beyond the spontaneous produce of the earth, and the absolute necessities of nature. Many, many commodities of living do you thus enjoy very ungratefully. But your spleen and envy are excited by the splendour of those, whom you cannot imitate, which the necessary gradations in civil life will always create in a state, where the people subsist with any tolerable degree of comfort. I shall not say, indeed, but your complaints may sometimes flow from a nobler cause ; from an indignation of the thoughtlessness, inhumanity, and vice, that are so often attendant upon great Fortune and Rank. Alas ! my Friends, do you seek upon earth for a state without vices ? Look to the vices of their Ancestors : they were much more barbarous and destructive.

But 'tis not only that additional Power, Populousness and Splendour, which we derive from our maritime situation ; but Plenty ; but Freedom ; but the happiest influence on our national character and manners. Think not, ye poor ! but I feel your wants, and hear your
cries:

cries. And alas ! in the present state of things, how is it possible to prevent always your just complainings ? But, believe me, there never was a Country under Heaven, where the Commonalty were so well and so regularly subsisted. 'Tis not that *our* Country is of itself richer and more fertile than every other ; but its situation has made it, that none has been so well cultivated : and the * waters surrounding it have been the cause of more plenty, than if that waste boundary had been filled up with the most fruitful Provinces.

As Commerce has diffused plenty among us, it has necessarily nourished a free and manly spirit in the intercourse of social life. It does not, it cannot subsist upon that timid and multiplied subordination, far beyond what the necessity of regular Government requires, that unmanly mixture of Insolence and Servility, by which so many nations are held together. A commercial state subsists upon that independant sentiment, which every man has of his own consequence, for the part that he bears in the manifold labours of human Society. It was *this* spirit, that made latter Ages see with astonishment, a little Country rise by dint of labour out of the sea, and stung with the sacred love of liberty, assert its freedom against the most powerful monarchy in Europe. Nor is there so much danger to be apprehended in this large and desirable Country, of the spirit of Trade degene-
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* By opening an encouragement to raise all the Corn, &c. that can possibly be produced.

rating at length into a sordid Avarice, with an insensibility to every social and public virtue. The large extensive schemes of our Commerce seem to breathe a nobler and more generous air. Nor is the accumulation of wealth the ultimate end of the British merchant, or ingenious Artificer, who may hope one day to arrive to an Interest and Consideration in the *real* Property of his Country, and even to a share of its Legislation, Distinctions and Honours. 'Tis thus that the Dignity of the landed Property becomes a check upon the confined spirit of Trade ; whilst the wealth and independence of our Traders, becomes an equal Security, against the *feudal*, lordly Prejudices of landed Proprietors.

But now, my Countrymen, if any one asks me, whether we enjoy those blessings of an open Communication with the world, and the other advantages resulting from that, exclusively of all other Nations ; my answer is, what then ! *would* you wish *so* to enjoy them ? Is it not enough that we possess them in a very eminent degree ? As Men, as Christians, nay as subjects too, let us rejoice to see other nations learn by our example to be happy. The spirit of a commercial state is not, or at least never ought to be jealous : nor would I dare, my Brethren, from this place, to congratulate you upon any advantage that you possessed at the expence of *one* sentiment of Virtue and Humanity. But the Prosperity of an active, industrious, civilized, wise, and ingenious People, is not like the ravaging lust of Conquest, that glories only in the de-

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struction

struction of mankind, in desolating plentiful Countries, or in crushing free spirits under the yoke of Tyranny and Oppression. 'Tis founded on principles more equitable and generous; it flourishes not only under its own immediate protection, but in the Peace, in the Security, even in the Opulence of all the Countries connected with it. What advantage in fact could we derive, from carrying our produce to a People, that had none of the riches, either of a luxuriant Nature or of a cultivated Taste?

'Tis by means chiefly of this rational, civilized spirit, that the human mind has been so wonderfully opened in latter ages; that we know so much of this Globe we inhabit, and of all the various Furniture with which nature has stored it; indeed that we know so much of ourselves, by remarking all the various exhibitions of Humanity, subject to the influence of different Climates, and of different Laws. In this respect, how dismal was the state of the old World, at least among those ancient nations we know most of, when Men were obliged to confine themselves to their own narrow confines, and could scarce know any thing of the People that surrounded them, till they entered upon their Country in a hostile manner, and made the innocent Inhabitants, as that * honest Barbarian told the celebrated Conqueror, execrate that savage thirst of Do-

* Plut. in Alex. & Quin. Curtius.

mination, which ever molested their profound Security and Repose !

Reflect therefore, my grateful Countrymen, how diffusive are those blessings flowing from your advantageous Situation. Venerate and adore that divine wisdom and goodness which placed you alone, *in the midst of the sea*. But for this, you might have possessed none of those distinguished Advantages, or possessed them only in an inferiour degree ; you might have fallen a prey to some ambitious Neighbour ; or at most, you would have been a pitiful, ill-peopled State, fain to hang for defence on some of those powers, that are now, by the blessing of Heaven, glad to have recourse to *you*.

After all that has been said, it must be confessed that the Advantages we have mentioned, as arising from our Insular Situation, are not necessarily and inseparably connected with it. The Sea, in place of being our Bulwark and Defence, might have served only to lay us open on all hands to the fury of our Enemies ; and all the fruits of our labour and invention, by which we should have sought to draw home the blessings of other Lands, might have become the spoils of Corsairs, or incitements to foreign Depredations. 'Tis thus that an insular situation has sometimes become a great curse, † locked up the wretched inhabitants in a mournful sequestration,

† Vid. Kaempfer's History of Japan and Siam.

banished from all the delights and utilities of communication with their fellow creatures. The free Ocean that washed their shores, has been made the fetters, by which a haughty, imperious Despot chained down an abject multitude, from all possibility of escaping from the rod of their Oppressor.—What then, my Countrymen, have we been hanging up false colours, to delude you into a Spirit of thankfulness, for being placed in a situation that ought rather to make you tremble? No, BRITONS, 'tis not so: and our maritime frontiers are spread around us, like the other boons of Heaven, to be converted into a glorious privilege, by a brave and spirited People. Without *this*, indeed, they would be much otherwise. Nor is it even every kind of Courage and Virtue that would do. 'Tis *that* alone, Bold Sailors! by which You have signalized yourselves. 'Tis that gallant spirit, that teaches you to brave the Seas and Tempests, as well as to look an Enemy in the face, armed not only with every Engine of destruction against your Person, but with such as threaten the very spot, whereon you stand, being plunged at once, with all it contains, into the depths of the sea. Without those virtues, 'tis impossible that a nation secluded from the rest of the World (as an Island would be without a spirit for Navigation, and a powerful Marine to protect them in that pursuit) 'tis impossible that such an Island should long be preserved, from falling a prey to Ambition, or from relapsing into Anarchy and Barbarism. As,

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on the other hand, is it not equally impossible, for men with Vigour and Resolution, daring enough to embrace all the fatigues and dangers of a Sea-faring military life, ever to submit to the chains of Conquest and Slavery? *

Mistake me not, my Brethren, as if I meant to flatter you. But I love to hold forth the Dignity and Importance of our Naval Profession, to make you always alive to the sense of your own honour, zealous not to degrade it by improper conduct, and ever attentive to the weight of those duties, and sacred obligations, that lie upon you. Remember that, to the Kingdom reposing in you such confidence, you owe it, always to be ready to approve yourselves, the most valiant, as well as the expertest Mariners in the World. Your Ancestors, and your immediate Predecessors, in the place you fill, have set you a noble example: God and the Nation will never forgive you, if the Glory of our Navy be tarnished by You. Do not imagine 'tis only in time of War you have to play your part. You have to preserve that Skill and Dexte-

* There may be some seeming Objections to these maxims, that perhaps occur to the Reader's mind, in the History of very considerable Naval powers. But is their Maritime Power their chief and natural strength? Wherever a vast Military Power subsists, their Naval strength is probably adventitious, and forced upon them by particular circumstances in their affairs. But a Maritime Power is congenial with the Sentiments and most natural Impressions of Islanders, and perhaps tends much to beget and encourage that bold, restless spirit, justly attributed to them by a celebrated Frenchman, whose works abound with such a generous Admiration of our national Character and Constitution.

city in your Employment, which the Welfare, the very Subsistence of this Nation, requires to be always kept up among Us ; or rather indeed, according to the present rapid progress of Human Affairs, to be improved and carried on to Perfection.

Nor is your Character in Civil life, as Citizens, to be neglected ; by which your Predecessors have been sufficiently distinguished from every other class of men ; and with all their peculiarities, I will venture to say, not the least deserving in their rank of Life. Generous to Prodigality ; Sociable, without choice of Companions ; Kind, as if by Instinct ; Friendly, even to such as betray them. 'Tis no Fault or Disgrace of Sailors, that their equals, in the corresponding Ranks of life, have been so little deserving of their honest virtues. Thoughtless, however, and Improvident ; Rash and Intemperate in their Passions ; Irreverent and Daring in their Discourse——But you know the Faults of your Profession, better than I choose to describe them : and I must say it, they are often dwelt upon with too much pleasure, by those Dastards, of more dark and restrained Dispositions, who know not how to make allowance, for the Overflowings of a generous Temper, or for the Sallies of Merriment, upon a sudden release from long confinement, and the various Agitations of a wandering life. I never did, however, and I never will palliate any of those Vices, with which Sailors may be chargeable. Labour to correct them with all your might ; but never flinch from one of their Virtues.

tues. And, above all, dare not to be Ungrateful to *that* Providence, whose Wonders *ye* so oft behold, *that go down to the Sea in Ships* * and whose protection *ye* have felt, when † *your Enemies had prepared for you the instruments of Death*, or when you have ‡ *occupied your business in the mighty Waters*.

And now, Gentlemen of the Navy, I would chiefly address myself to You that are Officers; who by the force of Example, as well as by the power of Command, can do so much, to correct the abuses, to support the Spirit, to maintain the discipline, and to promote an Alacrity, with a dauntless, and intrepid Execution, of all the duties of the Service. I direct my Advice only to the younger, among you: nor, to those do I give any other Advice, than I have heard brave experienced Officers recommend; and what They have performed, from whose History and Example, the Honor and Principles of your Profession are to be learned. Preserve always a noble Contempt of every mean and effeminate Vice; and of the luxurious, fantastical manners of an idle, dissipated Age. Even Women and Fops will despise You, for a Behaviour so inconsistent with your Character. Know your own Dignity and Consequence, and shew that you consider yourselves as the Guardians of those that, I blush to say it, would often be but

* Psalm cvii. 23.

† Psalm vii. 13.

‡ Psalm cvii. 23.

little able to guard themselves. Let the Honour of your Name be ever sacred. Nourish in yourselves, in your Companions, in all the young men under your protection, a Fondness, an Enthusiasm for your Profession, both as it is a Science of War, and also as it is the most noble, adventurous Art, that graces the Annals of Humanity. What was it, but this true Spirit of your Profession, that has carried your Countrymen round the Globe oftner, I believe, than all other Nations put together? ‡ Or what was it else, that has now sent out those brave Adventurers, to the Extremities of the South, and of the North, upon Discoveries that were, properly speaking, never yet attempted? §

If you think Gentlemen, that I encourage a boundless Spirit of Ambition and Glory, in Naval Affairs; I acknowledge that I do. 'Tis the true Spirit of your

‡ Vide Monf. Bougainville.

§ I hope there is no impropriety just to mention those two Expeditions, as Common Report speaks of them. Their real Destination, to be sure, may be in some respects unknown. To sail round the World by the Eastward, is an absolutely new Attempt, and cannot be executed without keeping very long out of the reach of the Trade Winds, in those far Southern Tracts, of which Mankind are intirely ignorant. And though a North-east, and a North-west Passage to the Easterly parts of the World has been often attempted, yet a North Passage never has. 'Tis one of the Glories of this Reign, to encourage those noble Efforts, as well for Political Advantages, as for the Improvement of Human Knowledge, and the Good of Mankind. Before this time, perhaps, our Nation has been sometimes deficient in that Zeal. The memorable Controversy between the English and French Philosophers concerning the Figure of the Earth, was decided in favour of the English, at the Expence of the French King.

Profession ;

Profession; 'tis *that* Spirit, by which our Ancestors handed down to us such Power and Renown. There is nothing in it, that I know, vain-glorious: nor is it inconsistent with the most Christian Humility. What! could the Great God of Nature mean to eradicate those Feelings of conscious Superiority, in the breasts that Himself had formed, not to be enslaved by the Fears, and confined Views, of little Souls? But does any Officer smile at this, and think me Romantic?—Have a Care, Sir! I shall not say but you may do your Duty, when called to it: believe me, however, it was not such cool Sentiments, that carried that Brave Man to the Top of the Mountains in the New World, to descry the immense Ocean that rolls beyond; whither he destined, from that Moment, to conduct the first English Ship.*

Such are the Sentiments, Gentlemen of the Navy, that will make your grateful Countrymen look upon you with Esteem, and with Reverence. But remember, you are not to purchase this Honour, without much Fatigue, frequent Hardships, and no little Danger; in short, by such continual Self-denial as, in an Age of unbounded indulgence, requires great Strength and Vigour of Mind. Nor am I afraid to intimidate you, by such a Picture of the Difficulties of your Station. To intimidate many of you I know to be impossible. Neither will I believe that any man would betake himself to

* See that masterly Account of the Life of *Sir Francis Drake* by Dr. Johnson.

that Employment, without an innate Aversion, not only to all the idle, insignificant ways of life; but even, to many useful, and busy ones: which, being employed about little Objects, or confined to small Space, want the Charms of Adventure, the Variety of Travel, and even the incitements of Danger, to recommend them to an active, and enterprising Mind. But know, for your Consolation, Gentlemen, that tho' Men may debase their Manners, yet they cannot entirely subvert the original Constitution of their minds; nor discard their Admiration of those Virtues, that they dare not imitate. Weak, little Souls *must* applaud the Vigorous and Enterprising: Cowards must worship the Brave: and he who hath passed all his days in Sloth, and ignoble Security, at home, is doomed to feel for a while the motions of a manly Heart, whilst the Voyager relates the Tales of distant Lands. Besides, You have your Satisfaction, to which others are absolute Strangers. Pleasure and amusement are sweet, when they come as the Solace of Care, and of Toil. Our Parents, our Wives, our Children, our Friends, our Country, are dear to us *indeed*, after long Absence. How pleasing is it to think of the Dangers that are past; or, to taste all the Calm and varied Enjoyments of Life, after its Difficulties, and its Storms!

Let me again intreat your Indulgence, Gentlemen of the Royal Navy, whilst I presume to address my Superiours with such Freedom. But does not that honest Advice
deserve

deserve to be respected, which does not mean to prescribe to You, so much as to let others know, what many of you have actually done, and what many of you, I dare promise, will do again? Store your Memory and Imagination with the gallant Deeds, both in Peace and War, of your illustrious Countrymen, that have gone before you, thro' a long succession of Ages. Yes, Gentlemen, much farther back than is commonly adverted to: as long since as the days of ALFRED, that wise and powerful Prince, whom the Gratitude of his Contemporaries, and the Admiration of succeeding Ages have justly surnamed the GREAT; but who merited this glorious Epithet by nothing so much, as by the respectable Fleet, for those days, that he established, and, by his sagacious Discernment, how the true Interest, and Fame of this Kingdom, were to be acquired. To be sure the Arts of Sailing were then in a rude state: but were they not such as served to call forth all the Intrepidity, and all the Capacity too, that can be exerted in more polished Ages? And perhaps, it was even in earlier Periods than that, when the infant Skill and Courage of our remote Forefathers, were confined to braving the Dangers of their native Shores, that the Seeds were sown, in this Island, of that vast Ardour for Maritime Affairs, which was afterwards to become so glorious, and formidable to the World.

But 'tis chiefly in latter times, you are to look for those Examples, that should fire, with noble Emulation, the minds of the British Youth. Who can read without

without Emotion, the gallant Achievements of our HOWARDS, of our RALEIGHS, of our CAVENDISHES, of our BLAKES, of our MONTAGUES, of our RUSSELS ; with many more, whom later times, and especially our own Age, have produced ? And, among many other grand Exploits, may I not defy all History, to produce a greater Scene, than might have been seen on *that* Day, when the brave Veteran Officer, who is now at the Head of the Fleet, so gallantly merited the Tribute of his Country's Gratitude ? The Conflict of the Elements ; all the Thunder of War ; Darkness at length spread around the Perils of an unknown, Rocky Shore ; the dreadful Havock and Destruction of the Vanquished ; the amazing Felicity and Escape of the Victors ; with the Eyes of EUROPE eager on the important Event ; raised the Picture with every heightening Circumstance, of the Terrible and the Sublime. Immortal Days ! and which Foreigners have generously stiled THE AGE OF ENGLAND ! It was Then, that the *British* Fleets covered the Ocean, in every Corner of the World at once ; every where Victorious ; every where Triumphant. The most brave, the most Powerful Nations combined, were obliged to yield to their daring Impetuosity. Each Day almost was distinguished by some Acquisition. The Riches of every Climate became our own. Fruitful Islands, Luxuriant Countries, whole Continents submitted to the *British* Flag : and raised our Empire both in Extent and in Power, up to the level of Those, whose Histories absorb all the Annals of Human Nature.

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But, however glorious these Days were, let us have more Humanity, my Countrymen, and more real Greatness of Mind, than to wish to see them renewed. These are times that only the Necessities of Affairs, and the Sacred Rights of an injured People, can justify. Since such, however, is the State of Human Affairs, and the Jealousy of Rival Powers, that those cases of sad necessity are often to be apprehended, and always to be provided against, You, Gentlemen of the Navy! and You, brave Sailors! will ever be prized. And however great it may be to see our Fleets, bearing home, in the time of War, the Tribute of distant Nations; and spreading the Terror of the *British* Thunder, from the Pole, to the burning Zone: yet, is it not still more noble, to see our Navy here, in the quiet Harbour, give peace to Europe; and keep the World in Awe, by the bare Remembrance of their former Exploits? 'Tis the Glory of our Beneficent Sovereign, to repress that fatal Ardour for Conquest, which, in His Situation, would dazzle less solid Minds; and inflame less Pious, and Virtuous Hearts. *Their* only Pride would be to destroy, and to swim in Rivers of Blood: because they were ignorant of that diviner Triumph, to diffuse Tranquility, and Arts, and Plenty, and Gladness; and, to crown all the Military Acquisitions of his Ancestors, and his own, by those Blessings of a mild, and respected Government, at home and abroad, which

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were,

were, or at least ought to have been, the End proposed by all such Acquisitions. Happy People! who, when the Clouds of War begin to gather all around, are saved from the breaking of the Storm, only, by their rapid, formidable Preparations against it. Happy Prince! who need only shake the Olive Branch that loves his Peaceful Hand; and his Humane Heart is pleased, to see it have the same Effect, as if He were to brandish the Rod of Wrath, and the Stern Warriour's Spear.

Long, Long, may it continue thus! Long may we thus be able, to ward off the Horrors and Devastations of War! But, how long it may be, Heaven only knows. It behoves us ever to be ready, or at least in a Condition, speedily to assert that Glory, and those manifold blessings, that kind Heaven has showered down upon us. To You therefore, Gentlemen of the Navy, your Country will ever turn her Eyes, as to her Natural shield of Defence. Let not Peace, however long we may be blest with it, ever allow you to sleep in Ease, or Security. Love your Country with your dearest Affections: be ready always to sacrifice even the most tender Concerns, to *her* Glory and Advantage. Above all, cultivate, by Virtue, the Favour of Heaven; from which alone, our Fleets and Armies can expect Success and Respect. And cultivate chiefly, like brave Sailors, those Virtues that may best become You. If ever the Day should come, when the Naval Officers of GREAT BRITAIN, give themselves
up

up to Softness, and to Luxury ; or, to mix with the Flippancy, and Extravagance, of an Effeminate Age——
Then, ye Rich Men ! sell all that you have ; flee beyond the Seas : and retire before the Shameful Catastrophe, of a once Brave, and Independant Island !

But, may the good Guidance of Heaven, that has protected us so often and so long, guard us ever against the Event, of such a dire Presage ! And, as we are girded about on every Side, *replenished, and made very glorious, in the midst of the Sea* ;† so let all the dangers that may threaten us, both from without, and especially within Ourselves, assail us in vain : as the surrounding Waves, spend their idle Fury, against the Shore !

† Ezech. xvii. 25.

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